

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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SUBJ: PRAVDA ACCUSES CHINA OF EXPANSIONISM IN ASIA

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA BROADSIDE AGAINST ALLEGED
CHINESE EXPANSIONISM IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

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CHARGES THAT PEKING'S HEGEMONISTIC POLICY IS MAIN

OBSTACLE TO IMPROVED POLITICAL CLIMATE IN REGION.
ARTICLE ARGUES THAT CHINESE ATTACKS ON SOVIET POLICY IN
ASIA ARE MERELY AN EFFORT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE
REAL THREAT: CHINA. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA MARCH 1 DEVOTES NEARLY A HALF PAGE TO
ARTICLE BY M. TISOYAN ON THEME OF CHINESE EXPANSIONISM,
DRAWING TOGETHER A WEALTH OF MATERIAL ABOUT ALLEGED
SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES FROM NEPAL TO THE EAST CHINA SEA.
SOME EXAMPLES:

A. AT SAME TIME CHOU EN-LAI WAS VOWING SUPPORT FOR
NEPAL'S SOVEREIGNTY DURING KING'S VISIT TO PEKING LAST
DECEMBER, CHINESE WERE SUSTAINING NEPAL EXTREMIST
GROUPS OF PUSHPA LALA AND OTHERS, SUPPLYING WEAPONS AND
AMMUNITION.

B. PRC REFUSED TO GIVE MALASIA GUARANTEES IT WOULD
CEASE SUPPORT OF ANTI-GOM GROUPS AND WOULD NOT SEEK
SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH CITIZENS OF CHINESE DESCENT.

C. PLA OFFICERS AND MEN HAVE REINFORCED BURMESE
INSURGENTS, AND BURMESE ARMY COMMAND DISPLAYED CAPTURED
CHINESE WEAPONS AT DECEMBER 1973 PRESS CONFERENCE.
MOREOVER, PEKING IS SPREADING RUMOR THAT AREAS OF IN-
SURGENT ACTIVITY IN BURMA HAVE BELONGED TO CHINA SINCE
ANCIENT TIMES.

D. PEKING HAS SUPPORTED NAGA AND MIZO INSURGENCIES WITH
AIM OF DISMEMBERING INDIA.

E. CHINESE AGENTS SUPPORT SUBVERSIVE EXTREMIST GROUPS
IN BALGLADESH, WHERE MAOIST LEADER MOHAMMED TOHA RECEIVES
INSTRUCTIONS STRAIGHT FROM CCP LEADERSHIP.

F. FIFTEEN MILLION OVERSEAS CHINESE IN ASIA CONSTITUTE
POTENTIAL FIFTH COLUMN, AND PEKING IS CONSTANTLY TRYING
TO USE THEM FOR ITS UNSEEMLY PURPOSES.

3. TISOYAN (WHOM WE HAVE NOT IDENTIFIED) SEES CHINESE
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EFFORTS TO FRIGHTEN OTHER ASIAN STATES WITH "NON-
EXISTENT SOVIET THREAT" AS TACTIC DESIGNED TO DISTRACT
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHILE PEKING PURSUES ITS OWN
AIMS. WHILE PRC RAILS AGAINST SOVIET COLLECTIVE
SECURITY IDEA (WHICH HAS "MAGNETIC FORCE" AMONG ASIAN
PEOPLES), IT IS DEALING WITH LEADING MONOPOLISTS,
ADVOCATING CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA,
AND PASSING OFF ITS BORDER COFLICTS AS ANTI-

IMPERIALIST GESTURES. TOSOYAN HIGHLIGHTS CHINESE UNWILLINGNESS TO RESOLVE DISPUTES THROUGH NEGOTIATION, AS EVIDENCED BY SOUTH CHINA SEA SHOW OF FORCE. PRC DEMARCH ON EAST CHINA SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF EXPLORATION IS DESCRIBED AS CAUSING CONCERN IN "NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES" OVER AGGRAVATION OF YET ANOTHER TERRITORIAL DISPUTE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ANTI-CHINESE PROPAGANDA HAS BEEN HEAVY IN SOVIET PRESS OVER PAST YEAR, WE FIND IT NOTEWORTHY THAT SOVIETS ALLOCATE SO MUCH SPACE IN PRAVDA TO BLACKENING PEKING'S ASIAN POLICY. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, CHIEF OBJECTIVE SEEMS TO BE COUNTERING CHINESE BLANDISHMENTS AGAINST SOVIET HEGEMONISTIC AIMS AND DEMONSTRATING ON THE CONTRARY THAT ASIANS AND SOVIETS HAVE A COMMON PROBLEM IN COPING WITH CHINESE EXPANSIONISM. THIS MAY REFLECT SOVIET CONCERN THAT CHINESE PRESSURE ON NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IS ENTERING UPON A GROWTH PHASE.
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